

DIVING

MALAYSIANS FALL IN RUSSIA

Jun Hoong pulls out with back pain,
Pandelela and Nur Dhabitah finish fourth

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A LAST minute withdrawal by Cheong Jun Hoong saw Malaysia's fine run in the World Diving Series come to an end yesterday.

Pandelela Rinong and Nur Dhabitah Sabri managed to finish only fourth in the women's 10m platform synchro final in the third leg in Kazan, Russia.

Jun Hoong, the 2016 Rio Olympic Games silver medallist with Pandelela, decided to pull out of the event in the morning after experiencing pain in her back, as Nur Dhabitah stood in for her.

Pandelela-Jun Hoong had earlier won silver and bronze in the same event in the first and second leg in Beijing and Guangzhou respectively last month.

Jun Hoong, 27, said she chose to take it easy as she didn't want to aggravate her injury and risk her chances of competing in the World Championships in Budapest, Hungary on July 14-22.

"It's a fact of life that we must sometime take a step back. I have not been physically fit," added Jun Hoong.

In yesterday's final, Pandelela-Nur Dhabitah chalked up 283.02 points to finish behind Russian duo Iuliia Timoshinina-Valeriia Belova (284.76) who claimed the bronze medal.

Favourite Ren Qian-Si Yajie of China, as expected, won the gold medal on 328.20 points followed by Canada's Meaghan Benfeito-Caeli McKay who settled for silver on 291.06 points.

Pandelela and Nur Dhabitah will again feature in the women's 10m platform individual event today.



Nur Dhabitah Sabri (left) stood in for Cheong Jun Hoong in the 10m platform synchro final with Pandelela Rinong.